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Northern Region News

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A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 2

February 1997



LOU MARILYN VIERHUS, 4, AND HER DOLLS IN 1937, on the porch of her new log playhouse. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society.

A 60-year-old playhouse at the Nine-mile Ranger Station has been a learning tool from its beginning.

The playhouse was constructed in 1937 by enrollees at the Civilian Conservation Corps' Camp Nine Mile. It was built for Lou Marilyn Vierhus, the four-year-old daughter of the camp superintendent. She was the only child at the CCC camp.

Crew Leader Paul Hendershot is credited with the idea of constructing the playhouse as a gift for Lou Marilyn. Foreman Charles Engbretson turned it into a training opportunity in log construction for his crew. It was built at no expense to the government. The logs were considered scrap; other materials were donated. Engbretson's crew of fifteen worked on the project on Saturdays and week nights.

Lou Marilyn enjoyed the playhouse for more than five years. When she was nine, in 1942, the CCC camp was closed and her father enlisted in the military during World War II. She and her mother moved to Seattle. Before leaving, Lou Marilyn closed the door to her tiny log house and

nailed up a "Keep Out" sign on the front door. She never returned as a child.

When the Vierhus' left, the playhouse was moved to the nearby Ninemile Ranger Station. Children of the residents have played in it ever since. Unfortunately, the structure fell victim to weather and lack of maintenance. Essentially, all features of the playhouse needed repair or replacement.

A training session was designed around the restoration of the Vierhus playhouse. Managers from around the country learned hands-on skills in wood-shingle roofing, restoration of historic doors and windows, and conservation of historic fabric. They also developed an awareness of historic values.

Historic Preservation

60-Year-Old Log Playhouse Learning Tool

by Cherie Peacock, Civil Engineer, Lolo National Forest



LOU MARILYN VIERHUS' GRANDCHILDREN enjoy playing in the restored log cabin at Ninemile RS. Photo by Sonja Tutwiler.

The final touches were carried out over the Christmas break by Forest Service employees and youths in the Montana Conservation Corps. The volunteers included people experienced in historic preservation skills working alongside those just learning. The Vierhus Playhouse once again provided valuable training.

With the much-needed restoration, the playhouse is back in use. Just the other day I looked inside and noticed a pile of tinfoil-wrapped pine cones in one corner. I smiled.

Employees, Volunteers Restore Kootenai NF's Historic Fire Lookout

by Diana Enright-Bawden, Public Information Technician,
Cabinet RD, Trout Creek, MT, Kootenai National Forest.

The oldest lookout tower on the Kootenai NF looks much younger now, thanks to a week of hard work this summer. From July 11-16, armed with hammers, saws and enthusiasm, a contingent of Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers, Forest Service employees and community members attacked the neglected Seven Point Lookout on the Cabinet RD, Kootenai NF. Built between 1930 and 1932, Seven Point's gabled roof and the fact that it sits on a 10-foot tower, make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The lookout offers a stunning view of the Cabinet Mountain range to the northwest, the Clark Fork Valley to the southwest, and the Cougar Peak Lookout on the Lolo NF to the south. The old fire lookout stood fast against the weather until the winter of 1969 when two walls collapsed under a heavy snow load. In the spring of 1970, Seven Point was repaired, but then abandoned for all intents and purposes. The PIT project concentrated on replacing the decking, railing, parts of the ceiling and floors, building a new set of stairs, new shingles for the roof, and coating the entire structure with a wood preservative. As each board was removed, it was replaced "in kind" to retain the original design and look of the structure.

Volunteers from Arizona, Texas and Washington pitched in to complete the work. Long days were followed by evening cookouts and camping around the lookout. The next phase of work includes an assessment of the tower legs by the Regional Historic Preservation Crew and possibly a paint job next summer.

For all their efforts in pulling this project together, Kootenai employees were recognized with letters of congratulation from Congressman Pat Williams and U.S. Senator Conrad Burns, plus spot cash awards from the Kootenai NF. Williams wrote to Regional Forester Hal Salwasser, "I know that working for the Forest Service is often times labor-intensive with little appreciation for the hard work done. I am proud each time I hear of the great work and service that dedicated Forest Service personnel provide. Congratulations and thanks to all of you for the jobs that you do." Burns added, "I have heard from several individuals who partici-

pated in the 'Passport In Time' project that your labors were above and beyond the call of duty."

Cabinet District Archaeologist Anne Karsian led the renovation, assisted by Jill Bassett (archaeologist and graduate student at the University of Montana), Joe Nelson of the Fortine Ranger District, and Kootenai Forest Archaeologist Becky Timmons.



PASSPORT IN TIME WORKERS AT THE SEVEN POINT LOOKOUT.

Photo by Diana Enright-Bawden.

Hungry Horse RD Seeks Land Trade With Oil Drillers

The Hungry Horse RD, Flathead NF and Cenex are working out a land trade involving 175 acres along the North Fork of the Flathead River.

While the United States owns the land, Cenex owns the mineral rights.

A possible exchange under consideration involves the Forest Service offering 80 acres in the Cat Creek oil field in Montana's Pe-

troleum County for the Cenex mineral rights in the North Fork. In the mid-1980s, the Forest Service purchased the land, north of Columbia Falls, adjacent to Glacier Park, to preserve the Wild & Scenic River characteristics of the North Fork of the Flathead. At that time Cenex retained the mineral rights with an eye toward future development.

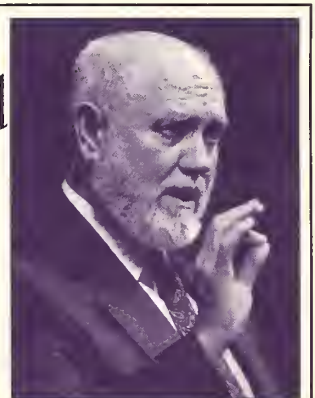
The exchange is expected to be completed in the summer of 1997. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is now preparing an environmental assessment of the proposed exchange. BLM manages the oil field lands in Petroleum County.

Thomas Retires: Michael Dombeck Named 14th Chief

Jack Ward Thomas retired in November as Chief of the Forest Service. In January Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman named Michael P. Dombeck the 14th chief of the USDA Forest Service.

Thomas retired after 30 years with the Forest Service to become the Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation in the School of Forestry at the University of Montana. He is teaching and guiding graduate student research and offering public service in the fields of wildlife conservation and ecosystem management for sustainable development. Thomas will also oversee the Theodore Roosevelt Wildlife Research Station and administer the work of the Boone and Crockett Club's Conservation Program.

JACK WARD THOMAS, keynote speaker at the Mansfield Conference at the University of Montana, Missoula, in 1995. University of Montana photo.



Dombeck, 48, had been acting director of the Bureau of Land Management since February 1994. He has held several senior level positions in the Department of Interior for seven years. Previously, Dombeck spent nearly 12 years working with the Forest Service in various posts throughout the country. A Senior Executive Service resource professional with a Ph.D. in biology and associated degrees in education and executive management.

Status of the Interior Columbia Basin Summary of Scientific Findings Columbia Interior Basin Science Report Released

The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) released the scientific assessment in December of the social, economic, and ecological trends and conditions covering 144 million acres in Oregon and Washington east of the Cascades, Idaho, western Montana and portions of Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service land managers will use the findings to cooperatively manage the 75 million acres of public lands in the Interior Columbia Basin. "The assessment provides the most comprehensive evaluation of the ecological, economic, and social conditions ever conducted," said Tom Mills, Director of the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station in Portland.

Martha Hahn, Idaho State BLM Director, said "We need this 'big picture' scientific assessment in order to understand management risks and opportunities on widespread issues."

The BLM and the Forest Service face such issues as limiting intensive wildfires, providing predictable levels of grazing and timber harvest, and maintaining salmon habitat. Many issues cannot be effectively managed on a single BLM district or one National Forest.

The ICBEMP scientific assessment — compiled and synthesized by more than 300 scientists and technicians from federal agencies, universities, state agencies, and private contractors — provides the baseline information for two Environmental Impact Statements (EISs). Draft EISs will be available for public comment this spring. Land managers have developed seven possible land management strategies. Scientists are currently analyzing the short and long-term effects of each.

For additional details, contact ICBEMB, 112 East Poplar St., Walla Walla, WA 99362. Telephone (509) 522-4046 (TTY: 509-522-4029) or UCRB, 304 N. 8th St., Room 250, Boise, Idaho 83702, telephone (208) 334-1770.

Kootenai NF Employees Contribute \$20,000 To Lincoln County Campaign

by Jean Spooner and Patty Johnson,
Kootenai NF, Libby, MT

Kootenai National Forest employees donated \$20,000 to the Lincoln County Combined Campaign.

Donations from each unit were: Libby RD and East Zone Engineering - \$7,080; Three Rivers RD and West Zone Engineering - \$3,831; Fortine RD - \$2,025; Rexford RD - \$1,766 and the Supervisor's Office \$5,298. Kootenai NF exceeded its Combined Campaign goal for the 13th year in a row. Contributions in 1996 accounted for almost 60% of the total donations in Lincoln County.

Many fine public service organizations, including emergency services, youth groups, family health and welfare organizations, etc., receive funds from the county-wide campaign.

Employees began preparations early for this fund-raising effort—the only one officially sponsored by the Forest Service. Handicrafts were created, food specialties prepared, and vacation opportunities coordinated. Items raffled, sold, or auctioned were donated by the employees or local businesses. Activities to raise funds included

three Chili Feeds (one a contest including varieties made from sheep, elk, venison, beef and vegetarian), a potluck breakfast and several luncheons with auctions and raffles. Auctions included holiday gift items, food specialties and many unusual things: a moose jaw cribbage board, a handmade porch swing, a beautiful belt buckle, several handmade quilt wall hangings, pottery, holiday decorations, guided river and lake trips, special vacation packages, a sleigh ride and a brunch for two. A unique fund raising idea was a "tie" day where everyone on one District had to wear a tie or pay a fine. Selling for \$9.95, "Morsels & Miscellany," a cookbook containing a collection of employees' and retirees' favorite recipes was a popular fund-raiser. A supply of cookbooks is still available. They can be ordered through the receptionists at any District and the Supervisor's Office. Kootenai NF employees care about helping people and work to do their part in making Lincoln County a better place to live. Their Combined Campaign effort proves it!



KOOTENAI NF'S CAMPAIGN CHECK: Chuck Brooks, (L) Kootenai NF SO operations staff officer and Forest Service coordinator for the Lincoln County Combined Campaign, presents a \$20,000 "check" from Kootenai NF employees to Valerie Crabtree, treasurer, Lincoln County Combined Campaign, and Jerry Jorgenson, Kootenai NF budget & finance officer, who served as the overall chairperson for the county-wide Combined Campaign. Photo by Roger Morris, WESTERN NEWS, Libby, MT

Over 1.3 Million Acres Planted In Northern Region Since 1909



by Dr. Peter P. Laird, reforestation specialist, RO Forest & Rangeland Management.

In the past 87 years (1909-1996), trees have been planted on a total of 1,320,175 acres in the National Forests of the Northern Region.

The Northern Region, established in 1908 with the headquarters in Missoula, planted trees on seven acres the follow-

ing year. In 1910, 194 acres were planted.

By 1932, the annual acreage planted exceeded 10,000 acres. By the mid-1960s, the region was planting more than 25,000 acres annually, peaking at 58,000 acres in 1980. Acres of planting remained at relatively high levels through the 1980s and early 1990s.

The region is now entering a period of reduced acres of planting. The region planted about 27,000 acres last year, but predictions are the level will drop to 10,000 to 12,000-acres. Reductions in the volume of timber harvests is the primary reason for the declines.

Coeur d'Alene High Students Learn Skills "Shadowing" IPNF Employees

by Carl Gidlund, Public Affairs officer,
Idaho Panhandle NFs, Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Seven Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNFs) employees gave an equal number of Coeur d'Alene area high schoolers a taste of their work worlds recently during a "Shadow Day" sponsored by the Kootenai Business-Education Partnership.

The "Forest Service Seven" were among 200 student participants, and the only ones who "worked with" a government agency.

Based on student and sponsor comments, the Forest Service will participate in future Shadow programs. Sample comments:

"I didn't know there were so many different parts of the Forest Service to work in. I would like to work here someday." (Student Tyler Nimke)

"The shadow program is an excellent way to give students a chance to really see how an agency such as the Forest Service oper-



A GOOD 'UN. Mike Bender, Fernan RD, forestry technician, helps Coeur d'Alene high school students Geri Bradymire and Charlie Miller evaluate the height and root length of a western larch seedling.

Photo by Matt Helm, COEUR D'ALENE PRESS.



AND THEY PAY YOU FOR THIS! Grady Myers, graphics artist, Idaho Panhandle NFs SO, demonstrates tradescraft to Coeur d'Alene high schooler Shaunn Wenig as part of a "Shadow Day" program at the SO.

Photo by Carl Gidlund.

ates." (Hydrologic Technician Bob Kasun)

"My impression was of some people running around and looking at trees. But now I know there's a lot more to it." (Student Tim Van Valin)

"I enjoyed the opportunity to show my shadow a little of what the Forest Service is all about. Thank you for the opportunity to be a shadowee. It was fun!" (Mary Ellen Pearce, IPNFs' Geographic Information Systems coordinator.)

"It is a lot more complicated than I originally thought. I thought that everyone I met was very nice and I was highly impressed by everyone. I think you guys were great!" (Student Shaunn Wenig.)

Palouse RD Compound Serves As Study Area For High School Class

by Cindy Chaney, Information Receptionist,
Palouse RD, Potlatch, ID, Clearwater NF.

Wow! I didn't know that wasn't just a weed."

This is a sample of what could be heard in conversations around the ranger district compound at the Palouse Ranger Station when Bob Uhle, Potlatch High School biology teacher, got together with District botanist Mike Hays and turned the grounds into what the students called their "Ecological Study Area."

"We have been studying ecology issues in the classroom," Uhle explained, "but the students enjoyed getting out of the building and doing hands-on research."

"The study includes looking at issues such as how environmental factors might limit various plant populations, what characteristics or adaptations of the dominant plants enable them to be successful in the study area and, of course, study of the plant species themselves."

The class marked study plots and counted the plant populations within that area. In the spring they will again return to the same area to compare what they found in the fall. Long-range goals of the class are to study soil types and determine why plants grow in certain areas and not others. Ranger District employees have suggested a prescribed burn be planned for the area so the students can observe what happens after a fire. Employees at the Ranger District have enjoyed watching and helping the students with their projects. Uhle had high praise for District botanist Mike Hays for his suggestions and help with the project.

Since the "Ecological Study Area" project, the high school students have been coming to the Ranger Station for



POTLATCH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS Suzie Curtis (L) and Sarah Russell discuss a study project with Bob Uhle, high school botany teacher, at the Palouse RD "Ecology Study Area." Photo by Cindy Chaney.

information about various projects and career possibilities. The project has sparked interest in future careers in natural resources and heightened interest in resource management among all of the students.

Big Tree Champions For Montana In 1997

by Alan B. Lane, forestry technician,
Three Rivers RD, Troy, MT, Kootenai NF

A national register of the largest of more than 750 native trees species is maintained by American Forests, Washington, D.C. The big tree register for Montana's champion trees is sponsored and maintained by the USDA Forest Service's Northern Region and the Intermountain Research Station.

Numerous nominations were submitted in 1996. Most were found by Forest Service employees who work in the field. New state champions and co-champions include a grand fir (367 points), a western white pine (405 points), a western hemlock (310 points), a red alder (118 points), a hybrid larch (324 points), and a co-champion paper birch (184 points) all from the Three Rivers RD, Kootenai NF; a white spruce (193 points) from the Fortine RD, Kootenai NF; a Douglas-fir (408 points) from the Libby RD, Kootenai NF; a co-champion paper birch (186 points) from Sanders County; a co-champion subalpine fir (232 points) from the Polebridge Subunit, Glacier National Park; a co-champion Engelmann spruce (377 points) from the Glacier

View RD, Flathead NF; and an alpine larch (255 points) from the Darby RD, Bitterroot NF. Points are computed by adding the circumference (inches) + height (feet) + 1/4 average crown spread (feet). Cochampions are listed when total scores are within 10 to 15 points.

The Montana Big Tree Register was initiated to recognize and preserve our largest trees. If you are interested in learning more about this program, or want a copy of the current (1997) listing of Montana's Champion Trees, write Big Tree Register, c/o Natural Areas Program, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station, P.O. Box 8089, Missoula, Mt. 59807; or telephone Angela G. Evenden, Natural Areas Ecologist, at (406)-542-4173.



MONTANA STATE CHAMPION WESTERN WHITEPINE: On the Yaak River, Three Rivers RD, Troy, MT, Kootenai NF. Circumference: 72 inches; height: 173 feet; with a 1/4 crown spread of five feet: 405 points.

Photo by Alan Lane.

by Cindy Chaney, Information Receptionist,
Palouse RD, Pocatello, ID, Clearwater NF.

The Palouse RD, celebrated its 90th anniversary December 4.

Despite the snowy, winter weather conditions, the public participation in the open house birthday party was better than anticipated.

Visitors had an opportunity to meet and visit with members of the staff regarding the past, present and future of the historic district. The open house illustrated the historic involvement of the Forest Service in the communities of north Idaho.

As a result of radio and newspaper publicity, the district located one of the first women to work on a District fire lookout. She is expected to be a significant contributor of historical information about the District; she has many historical pictures of the the Palouse RD area.

Other people have sent the District letters and historical materials that might have otherwise been lost.

An illustrated, 92-page history, "The Palouse Ranger District, 1906-1996: Celebrating 90 years", was prepared for the celebration and proved to be so popular with the visitors that the District is now planning to print additional copies. The history booklet will be the base for a more extensive history to be prepared in the next 10 years, in time for the 100th anniversary.

District archaeologist Robbin Johnston provided open house visitors with a slide

program on the history and the land and the people. Senior Citizens found the presentation especially entertaining. Some of the seniors provided oral histories of the National Forest and the surrounding communities.

Each District resource area provided interpretive displays. The exhibits and photos will be retained for future environmental education programs and other local public events. The District has an extensive collection of early day logging photos.

District Ranger Carmine Lockwood said that preparation for the anniversary celebration was a good team building exercise for all of the District employees. Many retired former employees of the Palouse RD enjoyed the snowy day visiting with friends and recalling "The Good Ol' Days."

MARKING PALOUSE RD'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY: Retired Assistant District Ranger Jim Dewey (L) visits with retired District Ranger Dick Hodge at the anniversary open house.



DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGIST ROBBIN JOHNSTON discussed wildlife species and their historical role on the Palouse RD. Photos by Blake Ballard.





Greater Yellowstone Back Country Horsemen photo.

Back Country Horsemen Volunteers Help With Trails, Rock Cairns

Seventeen members of the Greater Yellowstone Back Country Horsemen contributed more than 250 hours of volunteer help with trail improvement and clearing and building 24 rock cairns in 1995 in the Big Snowy Mountains in the Lewis & Clark NF, south of Lewistown and north of Rygate.

The work started at the trailhead in the Swimming Woman Creek drainage, north of Rygate. Trails were completed and cairns were built up Knife Blade Ridge to Greathouse Peak.

The Back Country Horsemen came with 15 horses, a mule train, and two pack goats.

Lewis & Clark NF personnel provided the

expertise, camp, cook tents and food for men and horses alike. The Forest Service's Northern Region eight-mule pack train from the Ninemile RD Remount Station joined the work force.

The mules packed rocks to widen the trails and build rock cairns (short towers of rock) that mark the trail for future travelers. In the high reaches, some visitors found the Big Snowy Mountains confusing as they searched for trails above timberline.

Now the Lewis & Clark National Forest will offer better trails and a legacy of rock cairns to help visitors find their way in the Big Snowy Mountains.

Judith Ranger District Improving Recreation Trail, Ramp at

Judith RD, Lewis & Clark NF, is planning to improve access to the Crystal Lake recreation area in the Snowy Mountains.

The planned improvements include a 2,200-foot shoreline trail to make the scenic lake wheelchair accessible for the elderly and disabled and a 150-foot extension on the boat ramp.

Judith Ranger District personnel staked the trail this fall. Construction is planned for next July.

The shoreline trail will be five-feet wide with compacted gravel. Maximum grade will be eight degrees.

Originally proposed and supported by organizations and contributors in the Lewistown area, the project received \$9,500 from the Central Montana Foundation, First National Bank, Lewistown Jaycees and Lewistown Rotary Club. The National Recreation Trails Fund contributed \$8,000 through the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Many Help Repair Road Flood Damage In Boundary County

by Maridel Merritt, Bonners Ferry, (Idaho) RD, Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

When Boundary County roads flooded in February 1996, County Commissioner Bob Graham turned to the USDA Forest Service and other agencies for help. Because of widespread damage, county personnel did not feel they had the engineering expertise, labor or equipment to perform all repairs within an acceptable time frame.

Graham, retired Bonners Ferry District Ranger, contacted the SO's Jim Penzkover, supervisory civil engineer. Graham proposed a cooperative agreement for the Westside Road which provides access to the Selkirk Mountains and west side of the Kootenai River Valley.

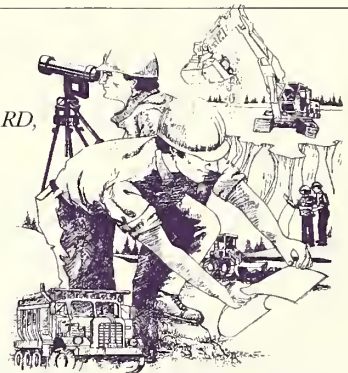
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the USDI Kootenai Valley Wildlife Refuge, Idaho Department of Transportation, county commissioners, Forest Service, and adjacent landowners were involved. The Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) provided engineering and contracting services.

In true team spirit, many IPNF employees contributed to the project:

North Zone employees from Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint included: Civil Engineering Technician Terry Roth, District Ranger Elaine Zieroth, Geologist Jim Nieman, Civil Engineering Technicians Sam McNearney and Bill McPherson. Retired Bonners Ferry RD Civil Engineering Technician Paul Karr, under a personal services contract, designed the project. Civil Engineering Technicians Ned Davis and Steve Hawkes.

SO employees who worked on the project were: Contract Specialists Dick Simundson and Nancy Trainer; Procurement Assistants Rita Loper and Carol Cook. Engineering Techs Mary Northrup and Polly Eberle; Engineers Jim Penzkover and John Neirincx. In Budget & Finance, Bud McConnaughey and Tana Rainio.

The \$127,000 contract was awarded to



Anderson Logging Co., Naples, Idaho. The work began Oct. 28 and was scheduled for completion within 30 days. However, COR Ned Davis noted, "There's been some bad weather that's definitely changed the picture. About three days of work remain, to put the road back into a useable condition for the winter and spring, until paving can be completed."

Davis said Anderson Logging made a special effort to ensure the road was passable for motorists.

The project involved three landowners and at least 25 people from five county, State, and Federal agencies. "Each entity involved in the project showed good cooperation," Davis reported.

Clearwater Resource Coalition Volunteers Renovate Campground

by Kathleen Thompson,
Information Assistant,
Clearwater National Forest,
Orofino, Idaho.

Washington Creek campground on the North Fork of the Clearwater River has a brand new look, thanks to the volunteer work of Clearwater Resource Coalition (CRC) members.

Constructed in the 1960s to accommodate pickup campers and tents, the campground was not meeting the needs of campers of the 1990s, many with 40-foot, recreation vehicles.

For three weekends last summer, 30 CRC volunteers operated heavy equipment and flexed muscles to complete phase one of a two-year renovation project.

With at least a dozen pieces of heavy equipment operating at any one time, volunteers realigned, widened, lengthened and graveled the campground access road and parking spurs. They hauled several thousand yards of dirt, moved during winter storms, to provide fill for leveling the road and spurs. And they hauled 3,000 yards of gravel to surface roads in the campground.

With help from members of Lewiston, ID, Boy Scout Troop 168, the volunteers installed 24 picnic tables and fire rings, refinished and painted all of the tables, installed posts for traffic signs and trimmed trees.

They were sensitive to the plants in the area and the character of the campground. "CRC did an excellent job of recognizing the need for care in minimizing disturbance of existing vegetation in the campground," North Fork District Ranger Art Bourassa said. Disturbed areas were seeded with native grasses.



ELWIN HUTCHINS, MEMBER OF THE CLEARWATER RESOURCE COALITION, donated his equipment and labor to spread gravel in a camping unit at Washington Creek campground last summer. Thirty CRC members were instrumental in helping complete phase one of campground renovation. Next summer they will help with phase two of the renovation project on the North Fork RD, Clearwater NF.

Photo by Duane Annis.

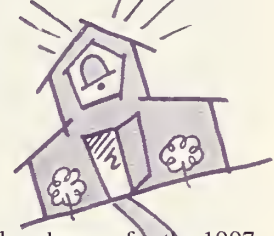
Four new campsites were added to the campground. Soil and vegetation were excavated at these new areas and moved to revegetate an abandoned road in the campground.

The Forest Service received a State grant from the Idaho Recreation Vehicle Fund to add to Forest Service appropriated funds and volunteer work for reconstruction.

Phase two of the Washington Creek campground renovation, to be completed this summer, will include reconstructing the water system to increase the amount of water available and replacing old style tables and toilets with facilities accessible for persons with disabilities. CRC will once again volunteer time and labor to continue the renovation work next summer.

For additional information contact Duane Annis, North Fork Ranger District office in Orofino, (208) 476-3775.

Regional Training Academy Set for March 17-21 at UM



Planning is well underway for the 1997 R-1 Regional Training Academy (RTA). RTA '97 will be March 17-21 on the University of Montana campus in Missoula.

This year, most of the classes offered at the Academy will be in the new Gallagher Business Building. The School of Business Administration building was completed in the fall of 1996. It is the newest and most modern facility on the campus. Gone are the old, wooden desks and chairs, a common complaint among attendees in previous years.

More than 1,000 Northern Region employees are now registered for more than 170 classes. The classes are sponsored by RO Staff units.

Of interest to all employees will be the General Session and the Vendors' Display. The General Session will be Wednesday, March 19, 11:30 to 1:30. It will be a "Brown Bag Lunch" with the Regional Forester and other selected speakers. The Vendors' Display will be Thursday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. It will be a display of vendors offering various products and services. There will be vendors representing all phases of work in R-1.

Attendees will be receiving information on motels, parking, registration, etc. as the information becomes available. If anyone has any comments that should be considered for RTA '97, contact any of the following core team members:

Donna Sheehy, RO Engineering,
(406) 329-3312.

Steve Gradhandt, RO Administration,
(406) 329-3001.

Peggy St.Peter, RO Human Resources,
(406) 329-3194.



BITTERROOT NF SUPERVISOR

STEVE KELLY took over the sidewalk shoveling duties temporarily in Hamilton, MT, in front of the SO on the 3rd day of the new year. The temperatures were low and the Bitterroot Valley of Southwestern Montana had the most snow in a few days since the early 1970s. Many people were on leave for the holidays. Several employees were snowed in and couldn't get out of their driveways. Others felt it best to not risk the hazardous road conditions to come to the SO.

Photo by Cass Cairns.

Special Interest Botanical Area, 11 New Research Natural Areas Established in Western Montana

by John Joy, Forest Ecologist, Jefferson RD,
Whitehall, MT, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.

Eleven new Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and one Special Interest Botanical Area (SIA) were recently established on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Bitterroot National Forests.

Research Natural Areas are areas permanently protected to provide reference areas for scientific research and ecological monitoring and to conserve biological diversity. Special Interest Botanical Area designation is utilized to recognize and protect areas with significant, and often unique, botanical values.

Collectively, these natural areas help land managers and scientists understand how ecosystems work. Research Natural Areas are selected to represent the variety of ecosystems that occur on National Forests.

The new R-I natural areas encompass 9,350 acres. All but one of the new RNAs are entirely within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. The other one straddles the Sapphire Mountain Range between the Philipsburg RD in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF and the Darby RD

of the Bitterroot NF. The areas were established following a public environmental assessment process.

With the new additions, the Northern Region now has 78 RNAs (74,573 total acres) and 43 more identified for review.

The new RNAs and the Special Interest Botanical Area are: Horse Prairie (196 acres); Skull-O'Dell (2,543); Basin Creek (1,014); Bernice (451); Dexter Basin (1,109); Dry Mountain (507 acres); Lost Park (618); Sapphire Divide (1,399); Thunderbolt Mtn. 791; Windy Ridge (235); Cave Mountain (4,513); West Fork Butte SIA (486).

Research Natural Areas contain lands dedicated to ecological research, monitoring, education and conservation of biological diversity. Generally these lands resemble pristine sites with little or no past disturbance from logging, grazing, mining, road building, intensive recreation. They serve as valuable benchmarks of natural conditions and pro-



WINDY RIDGE RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (235 acres), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. Photo by Steve Hadde.

cesses. As reference areas, RNAs become a standard for monitoring effects and impacts against treatments on similar managed sites.

The primary management objective for RNAs is to maintain natural conditions and processes. Activities that would disrupt natural conditions are not permitted. For example, logging, firewood cutting, motorized use, livestock grazing and mining are not permitted.

For further information about these new natural areas and the Natural Areas Program, contact: John Joy, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, 3 Whitetail Road, PO Box F, Whitehall, MT 59759 (406) 287-3223; Angela Evenden, Natural Areas Program, Intermountain Research Station, PO Box 8089, Missoula, MT 59807, (406) 542-4173.

Community Garden More Than Fruits and Vegetables



by Gary A. McLean, Forest Archaeologist,
Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, MT.

The concept of a community garden was the inspiration of members of the Elmo, Montana, community who, headed by Louis Caye Jr, recognized the need for a source of good, nutritious fruits and vegetables for its residents... especially the elders.

Under the auspices of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, the Ktunaxa (pronounced too-naw-ha) Garden was established to

- develop initiatives to overcome American Indian health problems;
- support economic development as a community activity;
- provide community gardening activities culturally conducive to family and group bonding and socialization;
- develop a Project Grow Model Garden that can be shared with the community;
- recognize the need of a self determination and holistic program.

Quite an undertaking for a small community. But, undaunted, they set out on their

own to make the idea come true.

The Salish and Kootenai Tribes provided the ground for a community garden. Residents, ranging in ages from eight to eighty, worked side by side picking rocks and spreading topsoil provided by the Kicking Horse Job Corps. After raking and leveling the topsoil, the community volunteers planted their garden. The people of Elmo were well on their way to creating their garden. When they recognized the need for outside help, they applied for a Rural Community Assistance (RCA) grant, a program administered through the Forest Service.

Working with Gary McLean, Flathead NF Tribal Liaison, the community secured an RCA community assistance grant that will ensure the long-term success of Elmo's Ktunaxa Garden.

The grant funds helped the community purchase a garden tractor/tiller; a greenhouse; irrigation equipment; and tools. Dedicated community volunteers are do-



FRANCIS AULD using the tractor/tiller in the community garden. Photo by Gary A. McLean

ing more than planting and raising vegetables and fruit. Their efforts are bringing the entire community together. The endeavor has created community bonds while providing nutritious foods and has fostered community-wide self reliance.

Future plans call for expanding the garden in size and plant varieties. This planning calls for cultivating and propagating traditional plants important to their culture.

The Ktunaxa Garden is an excellent example of local groups cooperating in an effort to improve community conditions and utilizing Rural Community Assistance grant financing. It is something the people of Elmo can be proud of. It illustrates how rural communities can meet needs, resolve problems, and play a major role in their self determination and the destiny of their community.

by Denise Best, South Zone Grants & Agreements Coordinator
St. Maries, Idaho, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

St. Joe RD - St. Maries, ID Cooperate on Access

Visitors to St. Maries, Idaho, are now greeted by welcoming and informational signing. Those arriving by boat via the St. Joe River now have easy access to downtown amenities. Local residents have a safe, easy foot access from town to waterfront Aqua Park.

Two grants from the Forest Service's Rural Community Assistance (RCA) Program and cooperation involving the Greater St. Joe Development Foundation, Inc., various community entities, and the Forest Service made these improvements possible.

A Sidewalk Project, initiated in April 1995 with a grant application to the RCA for economic recovery, involved the design and installation of approximately three city blocks of surfaced walkways and sidewalks. The \$19,945 in RCA funds was matched with \$38,795 provided by the community.

Installing the sidewalks, one of the community action plan objectives, improved the infrastructure. The plan promotes economic diversification by creating a pedestrian corridor between the waterfront docks to St. Maries' main business area. The sidewalk design was developed by Jim Moen, St. Joe RD.



Expenditures amounted to \$13,778 in Federal money and \$41,222 in community funds. The remaining \$6,167 in RCA grant money will be used to complete another city block of sidewalk in the spring of 1997.

A second project was initiated with a community feasibility study for a motel/meeting facility. The study indicated the community was not yet ready for such a development but there was indication of a need for additional attractions and activities to encourage visitors to spend more time in St. Maries.

A proposal for the remaining \$9,000 in RCA grant money was submitted for study/

design for signing. Bill Anderson, St. Joe RD, assisted in marking the locations for the signs, which were in place for the community's 1996 Paul Bunyan Days.

St. Maries' economic development efforts are highlighted in "Collaborative Planning: Cases in Economic and Community Diversification", a Forest Service publication (F5-575) that covers 12 case studies across the U.S. It features the collaboration and community planning efforts still in process to promote economic diversity and community development in the St. Maries area. The Forest Service is characterized as "instrumental in bridging the gap between those who worked in the forest industry and those pushing for diversification".

Ruth Rathbun, Director of the Greater St. Joe Development Foundation, expressed satisfaction with the two projects:

"We are really pleased in our workings with the Forest Service. The Forest Service employees have been very helpful, available for meetings, and good to work with. We've accomplished several projects that enabled us to improve our city and county infrastructure that we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. We hope it will be a continuing relationship."

N.D. Paleontologist John Hoganson Honored by Regional Forester

by Carol McCoy Brown, geologist, Custer
NF SO, Billings, MT.



DR. JOHN HOGANSON (LEFT), North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS) paleontologist, accepts a certificate of appreciation and a special award clock from Custer National Forest Supervisor Nancy Curriden, at an award presentation program in Bismarck, ND. Dr. John Bluemle, (right), director of NDGS, participated in the award presentation.

Photo by North Dakota Geological Survey.



TOM PETTIGREW

Changing of the Guard:

Beryl Johnston, R-1 director of engineering from 1981 to 1996, retired after 39 years in the Forest Service. He was succeeded by Tom Pettigrew, a veteran of 25 years with the Forest Service. A native of California and second generation Forest Service, Pettigrew holds a civil engineering degree from California State University at Chico. He has served on the Plumas NF; on the Siskiyou NF at Cave Junction; as a smokejumper; on the Shasta-Trinity, Cleveland and Clearwater NFs; and in the Southwestern RO. After serving in Transportation System Development in the WO, Pettigrew was assigned to R-1 as assistant director of Transportation Systems Engineering in 1995.

In a surprise ceremony, late in the summer in Bismarck, ND, Custer National Forest Supervisor Nancy Curriden, on behalf of Regional Forester Hal Salwasser, presented Dr. John Hoganson, North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS) paleontologist, a certificate of appreciation and a special award clock.

The award is in recognition of Hoganson's work in Forest Service/ North Dakota Geological Survey projects to manage paleontological resources on lands administered by the Forest Service in North Dakota.

Dr. John Bluemle, Director of NDGS, attended and participated in the awards presentation.

The NDGS signed a memorandum of agreement with the Custer National Forest in 1986 to cooperatively manage paleontological resources on lands administered by the Forest Service in North Dakota. National Grasslands and National Forest lands in North Dakota are

administered by the Custer National Forest. The 1986 cooperative agreement was reaffirmed in the summer of 1996.

This unique State-Federal cooperative project has resulted in the collection and restoration of fossils from Custer National Forest lands in North Dakota. The fossils are now exhibited at the North Dakota Heritage Center, in Bismarck, N.D.. The Forest Service has designated the NDGS State Fossil Collection at the Heritage Center as the repository for fossils found on National Grasslands lands in North Dakota.

Hoganson was instrumental in establishing this nationally recognized partnership, designed to preserve fossil resources found on National Grasslands and National Forest lands. He is responsible for administering the North Dakota Geological Survey cooperative agreement.

"Outdoors For Everyone"

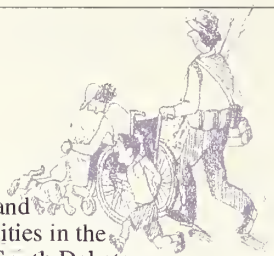
Recreationists, including the elderly, families with children and those with disabilities can get detailed information on facilities in the National Forests of Montana, northern Idaho and western South Dakota in a new, 92-page recreation access guide "Outdoors For Everyone."

Copies are available free from Forest Service Offices in the Northern Region.

Jane Ruchman, Gallatin NF accessibility coordinator, prepared the handy directory with the assistance of the other R-1 National Forest accessibility coordinators, members of the Bozeman chapter of Montanans Concerned with Disabilities, Tom Scott, Scott Birkenbuhl, and Ralph Martin as well as Raelen Willard and Jeanne Schutt of the Helena chapter of the Montana Independent Living Project.

Challenge levels for each recreation opportunity are rated as "easy", "moderate" or "difficult" and detailed explanations are provided for each of these levels. The guide provides information on camping, picnic and swimming areas, boat ramps, visitor information centers, fishing sites, rental cabins, ski areas, hunting and fishing and outfitters/guides.

Ruchman plans to have the access information guide placed on the internet this spring. This will be especially helpful to people across the country planning visits to R-1 National Forests.



Archie Junes Retires; 36 Years With Forest Service

by Laura Smith, Information Specialist, Nez Perce National Forest, Grangeville, Idaho.

Archie Junes, project engineer, Nez Perce NF, retired in January after 36 years with the Forest Service.

Junes served in the U.S. Army from April 1960 to April 1962 in Germany. He started work with the engineering staff on the Nez Perce National Forest in May of 1962, and continued his career there until his retirement.

When asked what his fondest memory was, Archie said, "Working with many fine people within the timber industry and roadbuilding contractors."

His hobbies include woodworking, fishing and hunting. Archie and his wife, Linda, will continue to make their home in Grangeville, Idaho, where he will be self employed.

David E. Poncin Retires; 38 Years With Forest Service

by Laura Smith, Information Specialist, Nez Perce National Forest, Grangeville, Idaho.

David E. Poncin, Fire Staff Management Officer, Nez Perce and Clearwater NFs, Grangeville, Idaho, retired in January after 38 years in the Forest Service.

Born and raised in Iowa, Poncin moved to Montana when he was 18. He started to work with the Forest Service part time in 1955 on a summer work crew north of Headquarters,

Idaho, Clearwater NF. Other summers, while attending college, he worked as a smokejumper, fire lookout and in other fire-related seasonal jobs.

He holds a degree in forestry from the University of Montana (1960). His first full-time, career job with the Forest Service was as a forester and fire control officer on the Helena NF.

He worked as an assistant ranger on the Lochsa Ranger District, Kooskia, Idaho, Clearwater NF, for seven years. Poncin served in a variety of positions on several districts and National Forests in Montana.

In 1983, he moved to Grangeville to serve as staff officer for recreation, fire, wilderness and lands for the Nez Perce NF.

Mr. and Mrs. (Emily) Poncin are making their retirement home in Grangeville.



DAVID PONCIN

Four Certified Financial Managers

by Paula L. Plymale, Accountant, RO Financial Resources.

Four accountants in the Forest Service's Northern Region are now certified Governmental Financial Managers. The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) professional certification board recently announced that the following members of the Lake Missoula AGA Chapter have been designated Certified Governmental Financial Managers (CGFM):

Marty M. Bourassa, RO Financial Resources;
Paula L. Plymale, RO Financial Resources;
Dale E. Fears, RO Financial Resources;
Shannon A. Hensler, Budget & Finance, Lolo NF.

They have successfully met the board's certification requirements as an expert government financial manager.

The CGFM professional designation is the only certification program designed specifically to recognize the unique skills and special knowledge required of professionals specializing in government financial management. In addition to meeting the program's education and experience requirements, those awarded the CGFM designation agree to abide by AGA's strict Code of Ethics and complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects.

AGA is a 12,000-member professional organization serving the professional interest of financial managers responsible for effectively using government financial resources at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Lake Missoula is the local chapter of AGA. The organization is open to all accountants who do governmental accounting or auditing.

For more information about AGA and CGFM certification, telephone Paula L. Plymale, RO Financial Resources, (406) 329-3559.

Harlan Smid, Director Financial Resources



HARLAN SMID

Harlan Smid, Eastern Region, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has been named R-1 Director of Financial Resources. He reported to his assignment in Missoula in February.

A Certified Government Financial Manager, he holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Mankato (Minnesota) State University.

His Forest Service experience includes assignments on three National Forests as budget and finance officer. In the R-9 regional headquarters he has been on the capital resource team as an auditor, regional accountant and program manager for finance.

Recently he served as team leader of the National Financial Health Management Issues Team. He is a member of the Association of Government Accountants and is active in the National Wild Turkey Federation.

He is originally from northwest Iowa. Mr. & Mrs. (Laura) Smid are the parents of two teenage children, Matt, 16, and Andrea, 13. Smid said his interests include his children's school activities, hunting, bowling and traveling.

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

BEAN-DOCHNAL, JANET, planner, Madison RD, QSI
 KING, RICHARD, law enforcement officer, Madison RD, QSI
 OLSON, TRUDI, law enforcement assistant, SO Annex, Butte, QSI
 SALO, DAVID, hydrologist, SO, promotion to hydrologist, SO Annex, Butte

Reassignments & Transfers

McDONALD, MARGARET, social services assistant, Anaconda JCC, reassignment
 civil engineering technician, Philipsburg RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

CAMPBELL, DAVE, district ranger, Sula RD, temporary promotion
 FITZPATRICK, EILEEN, information receptionist, SO, promotion to secretary, R-5
 Modoc NF, Alturas, CA
 GOSLIN, BILL, forestry technician, West Fork RD, temporary promotion,
 Intermountain Research Station, Missoula, MT

Reassignments & Transfers

CLARK, JACKIE, information receptionist, Kootenai NF, reassigned to SO

New Employees

GROVES, CARL, scsep, Anaconda JCC

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

JONES, TERRILL C., rangeland management specialist, Beartooth RD, temporary
 promotion, to supervisory biological scientist, Beartooth RD
 LUNSFORD, MARY B., information assistant, SO, temporary promotion, to public
 affairs specialist, SO
 MARQUIS, SANDRA E., budget and accounting officer, SO, temporary promotion to
 administrative officer, SO
 REID, KIM, supervisory biological scientist, Beartooth RD, temporary promotion, to
 range and management specialist, SO Reassignments
 CLARK, REGINA M., rangeland management specialist, SO, reassignment, range
 and management specialist, Gallatin NF, Bozeman RD
 WIEGAND, ROBERT, forester, Medora RD, reassignment, forester, National Forests
 in Mississippi, Tombigbee RD

Retirements

WALTEE, GLENNA D., administrative officer, SO

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

ARNOUX, KAAREN, business management assistant, Glacier View RD, perfor-
 mance award
 CHRISTOPHERSEN, ALLEN, district ranger, Hungry Horse RD, QSI
 FALCON, TERESA, accounting technician, SO, performance award
 FLINT, FRED, forester, Hungry Horse RD, performance award
 HAMILTON, GINGER, archeologist, SO, QSI
 LANE, MARVIN, purchasing agent, Hungry Horse RD, performance award
 LIESER, EDWARD, forester, Tally Lake RD, promotion
 MANNING, VIENNA, business management assistant, Hungry Horse RD,
 performance award
 MARTIN, LUCINDA, personnel management specialist, QSI
 MCDEVITT, LINDA, pay technician, SO, promotion
 MULLINS, DARLENE, administrative officer, Hungry Horse RD, performance award
 PACKER, JANE, computer assistant, Hungry Horse RD, performance award
 PING, BARBARA, forestry technician, Tally Lake RD, QSI
 RICE, NOLA, procurement assistant, SO, performance award
 SUTTON, JODY, information assistant, SO, QSI
 SWOPE, WILLIAM, supervisory natural resource specialist, Swan Lake RD, QSI
 VANDENBURG, JIM, forest silviculturist, SO, Danny On Conservation award
 VENTURINI, BARBARA, procurement assistant, SO, performance award
 VIGIL, ANDREW, forester, Swan Lake RD, promotion

Reassignments

CHRISTOPHERSEN, ALLEN, district ranger, Hungry Horse RD, reassignment,
 resources staff officer, SO

Resignations

MATTER, NANCY, budget assistant, SO

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

BREEDLOVE, BILL, Forester, SO, promotion
 INMAN, RICH, Supervisory Biological Scientist, SO, QSI
 McCLURE, WALLY, Fish Biologist, Bozeman RD, promotion
 SHULER, SCOT, Fish Biologist, Gardiner RD, promotion
 VANDIVER, ALAN, Supervisory Forester, Hebgen Lake RD, QSI

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

MILBURN, DEBBIE, law enforcement assistant, SO, promotion
 SHEPHERD, KATHARINE, administrative clerk, Lincoln Rd to San Juan-Rio
 Grande National Forests

Reassignments & Transfers

STANN, ANITA, office automation clerk, SO, reinstated

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

HALLISEY, JUDY, promotion, hydrologist, St. Maries RD
 MOTTERN, BERTALEE, employee relations assistant, promotion, supervisory
 personnel assistant, SO
 SHORT, BEVERLY, personnel clerk, temporary promotion, lead personnel clerk, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

JOHNSON, JEFFREY, office automation clerk, RO, conversion to student trainee
 (geology), Wallace RD
 ENCINAS, JOSEPH, information systems manager, reassignment, Wallace RD
 LOGSDON, HENRY, computer specialist, reassignment, Wallace RD
 OLSON-BOYD, MARY, accounting assistant, reassignment, claims assistant, SO
 TOWN, LEANN, personnel assistant, reassignment, resource assistant, SO
 VORE, MARY LYNN, claims assistant, reassignment, accounting assistant, SO

Retirements

BOSWORTH, ROBERT, forester, Bonners Ferry RD
 HARRINGTON, PAUL, wildlife biologist, retirement, SO
 RISHLING, JAN, resource assistant, retirement, SO
 STERNBERG, MICHAEL, supervisory forestry technician, Wallace RD
 WILFERT, RICHARD, forester, Ssandpoint RD

Resignations

HATFIELD, DAWN, forester, resignation, Wallace RD

New Employees

MILLER, FRANCES, scsep, clerk, St. Maries RD
 MILLER, HELEN, scsep, clerk, SO

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

GRILL, STARLA, support services supervisor, Ninemile RD, promotion
 HAWK, RON, forester, SO, promotion
 HEGWOOD, DAN, office automation clerk, Superior RD, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

ARNOLD, DEWEY, civil engineering technician, Plains RD, reassignment, forestry
 technician, Superior RD
 RYS-SIKORA, ANNE, biological science technician, SO, reassignment, supervisory
 forestry technician, SO

Retirements

RODGERS, NITA, assistant personnel officer, SO, Lolo NF

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards and Promotions**

DICKINSON, ERIC, biological science technician, Clearwater RD, time off award
 EDWARDS, JAMES (PERRY), biological science technician, time off award
 PETERSEN, VICKIE, financial assistant, SO, performance award
 SIDDALL, PHOEBE, biological science technician, Elk City and Red River RDs,
 time off award

Retirements

JUNES, ARCHIE, civil engineering technician, SO, retirement
 NORTON, NORMAN, law enforcement officer, Pierce and Lochsa RDs, retirement
 PONCIN, DAVID, supervisory forester, SO, retirement
 WOOD, ROBERT (ED), district ranger, Red River RD, retirement

**In Memoriam**

ALVIN W. CROUSSER, 56, died January 27 in Worley, Idaho. Born in Traver City, Michigan, he grew up in Weippe, Idaho, and graduated from Weippe High School in 1958 and went to work for the Forest Service. In 1966 he was assigned to the Powell Ranger Station, Clearwater NF. He moved to the St. Maries Ranger Station, Panhandle National Forests in 1975, where he served as district fire management officer. He retired from the Forest Service in 1990.

KENNETH W. HEARE, 42, died February 3 in Missoula. He graduated from Frenchtown (MT) High School in 1972, served in the U.S. Air Force, 1972-1976, and started his Forest Service career in 1976 as a firefighter on the Ninemile RD, Lolo NF. Heare became a Forest Service Smokejumper in 1979; he made 127 fire jumps and 149 practice jumps. Heare earned two degrees from the University of Montana, in recreation resource management (1981) and forest conservation (1991), and served seven years on the Missoula Snowbowl Ski Patrol. Memorials in Heare's name can be sent to Camp Make-A-Dream, P. O. Box 1450, Missoula, MT 59806.

DAVID J. MACLAY, 91, Died January 24 in Missoula. Born on the family ranch in the Bitterroot Valley, MacLay graduated from Missoula County High School in 1923 and held a degree in wildlife biology from the University of Montana (1928). He was the first biologist employed by the Forest Service's Northern Region to study wildlife and fisheries. After working in Glacier National Park and as a biologist for the U.S. Dept. of Interior and the Montana and Idaho Fish & Game Departments, he worked for the Forest Service in the 1930s and early 1940s. He took leave from the Forest Service for two years to head the Idaho State Dept. of Fisheries. MacLay returned to the Forest Service in 1942 to serve as an assistant ranger on the Helena NF.

Employee Spotlight

Name: Bryan Stotts.

Family: Wife, Pam, Forest Service geologist, Clearwater NF, S0. Two sons: Connor, 3 years; Brennen, 11 months.

Current Job: District Ranger, Sheyenne RD, Custer NF, the "far side" (east) of Northern Region, Sheyenne National Grasslands, Lisbon, North Dakota.

Previous Life: Wildlife biologist for the Clearwater NF and Custer NF; research biologist for North Dakota Game & Fish Department.

How I Spend Time Away From Work: Playing with the kids, gardening, hunting, fishing and wood carving.

Best Part of My Job: Those rare moments when all interest groups develop a common vision on what needs to be done.

Professional Goal: To re-establish a functioning tall grass prairie on the Sheyenne.

Personal Goal: To raise two healthy kids and win a wood carving competition.

Where I'd Live, If Money Were No Object: A secluded portion of the Oregon Coast, if it exists.

Dream Vacation: A luxury resort on an island in a remote Canadian lake, with a lot of fish.

Favorite Place In the World: Beltrami Island State Forest, Minnesota—except sometimes in the winter.

My Greatest Adventure: A summer "bumming" around Europe.

Achievement I'm Most Proud Of: Becoming a District Ranger, even if it has become the smallest Ranger District in the Forest Service.

Fantasy Job: A job where you have the opportunity to bring meaningful and long-lasting improvement to a piece of ground, like managing a large western ranch for its overall health and not have to worry about the politics or bottom line.

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INTO THE PAST

The "Looking Back" picture in the January issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS was a 1921 snow scene at the Trout Creek Ranger Station, Kaniksu National Forest. Now, can you name this Nez Perce National Forest ranger station? The picture was taken by K. D. Swan in 1925.



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